



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 3440.15E
N97
4 Nov 2020

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3440.15E

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPON INCIDENT RESPONSE
MANAGEMENT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST N3040.5E (NOTAL)
(b) OPNAVINST 3440.17A
(c) DoD Directive 3150.08 of 20 January 2010
(d) DoD Manual 3150.08, DoD Nuclear Weapon Accident Response Procedures,
22 August 2013
(e) SECNAVINST 8120.1C
(f) DoD Directive 3025.18 of 29 December 2010
(g) OPNAVINST 3440.16E
(h) OPNAVINST 8120.1A
(i) DoD Instruction 3150.10 of 2 July 2010

Encl: (1) Acronyms
(2) Navy Nuclear Weapon (NW) Incident Command and Control (C2) Diagram
(3) Nuclear Weapons Incident Response Principles

1. Purpose

a. To define responsibilities, establish Department of the Navy's (DON) nuclear weapon incident emergency response command structure, and provide overarching response procedures for an incident involving, or event that threatens, a U.S. nuclear weapon (NW) or NW system. This instruction provides DON implementing direction for national and Department of Defense (DoD) level policy guidance contained within references (a) through (i). Acronyms are listed in enclosure (1).

b. This revision provides nuclear weapon incident (NWI) response principles and defines a major fire in the missile compartment as a NWI. This instruction is a complete revision and should be reviewed in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 3440.15D.

3. Scope and Applicability

a. This instruction applies to all U.S. Navy commands, activities, units, and forces: with custody of NW or NW systems; responsible for supporting operations with NW or NW systems, incident response for NW or NW systems, life cycle support of NW or NW systems, security (including U.S. Marine Corps units providing direct support per SECNAVINST S8126.1B (NOTAL) for NW or NW systems; or development of DON NW or NW systems ashore and afloat. Nuclear command and control (C2), employment planning, execution authorities, and responsibilities remain per operational commander requirements.

b. This instruction does not apply to improvised nuclear devices, radiological dispersal devices, NW recapture and recovery security operations, or an event that threatens a U.S. naval nuclear propulsion reactor or associated radioactive material (i.e., a nuclear reactor accident or radiological accident). For an event that has the potential to affect the nuclear propulsion plant of a ballistic missile submarine, nuclear-powered (SSBN) and NWs, both this instruction and reference (a) apply. For this type of emergency, Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (CNO N00N), and Director, Strategic Systems Programs (DIRSSP) provides dual regulatory oversight of the emergency response.

c. For all-hazards events (e.g., natural disaster, loss of all base power) that have potential impacts to U.S. NW, reference (b) applies to the actions necessary to protect naval facilities and the base population from the non-NW aspects of the event. This instruction governs the actions, roles, responsibilities, and authorities of DON organizations needed to mitigate and respond to the NW surety and radiological release risks associated with all-hazards events (e.g., on-base protective action decisions, communications with civil authorities and the press).

d. This instruction is applicable to all accidents and incidents as defined, respectively, in reference (d) and Presidential Policy Directive-35 or subsequent DoD definitions. For strategically-loaded SSBNs, all Missile Compartment multilevel fires and all fires in the Missile Compartment that are not under control when the first hose team outfitted in Self Contained Breathing Apparatus and Fire Fighting Ensembles is relieved, are considered to meet the definition of a Nuclear Weapon Incident (NWI).

4. Background

a. The DON is responsible for securing, handling, storing, maintaining, assembling, and transporting NW and NW systems in DON custody. Although NW and NW systems are designed to be safe for all anticipated evolutions and operating environments, references (c), (d), and (e) direct DON to establish NW incident response plans and procedures in the unlikely possibility an unexpected event or abnormal environment results in an NW incident.

b. Initial notification of an NW incident must be reported to the National Joint Operations and Intelligence Center (NJOIC) by the lowest level of command having knowledge of the incident via the operational report system identified in OPNAVINST F3100.6J.

It is imperative that both the initial report and follow-on reports not be delayed while unit and service chain of command notifications are made.

c. For a Navy NW incident, the Strategic Weapons Facility (SWF) or SSBN will assume responsibility as the Initial Response Force (IRF), per paragraph 5.

d. Due to the limited operating environments of a DON NW, the DON maintains a limited deployable Response Task Force (RTF) C2 capability tailored to the environment and designed to augment an existing DON operations center.

e. When directed, the RTF will execute its tasking per paragraph 5.

f. An SSBN presents a unique environment where NWs are in close proximity to a nuclear propulsion plant, requiring the integration and prioritization of nuclear propulsion plant and NW incident response actions. Enclosure (2) illustrates the C2 for an event that threatens the nuclear propulsion plant and NW.

5. Policy

a. The DON will respond to and mitigate the consequences of incidents worldwide involving, or with the potential to involve, U.S. NW and associated nuclear or radiological incidents either when directed or when acting under immediate response authority as defined in reference (f) and section 182.6 of Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations.

b. The DON maintains an RTF capability at NW capable installations, scalable based on the situation, which is designed to augment an existing DON operations center. For an SSBN NW incident at sea or moored outside homeport, the Fleet Commander, in coordination with CNO N00N, DIRSSP, DoD Incident Commander (DoD IC), and the appropriate RTF commander, will determine which DON operations center will support NW incident response.

c. The Commanding Officer (CO) of a SWF or SSBN may be designated as IRF commander dependent on the location of the NW incident.

d. An NW incident onboard an SSBN or within the confines of an Explosives Handling Wharf could potentially threaten the nuclear propulsion plant. The commander, Submarine Group (COMSUBGRU) with subject matter expertise in both nuclear weapon incident and nuclear reactor accident or radiological accident emergency response (COMSUBGRU 9, Pacific or COMSUBGRU 10, Atlantic) will assume DoD IC responsibilities until the nuclear propulsion plant is deemed to be no longer threatened and immediate response actions to place the NW and

NW systems in a stable condition are complete as determined by the DoD IC in coordination with the fleet commander, DIRSSP, and CNO N00N.

(1) In the absence of the COMSUBGRU, the next trained senior ranking officer in the submarine group will execute as the interim DoD IC until the COMSUBGRU arrives.

(2) Once the conditions listed in subparagraphs 5a through 5d are met, the RTF commander will assume responsibility as the DoD IC.

e. The DoD IC, who must be trained in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System, is normally the senior ranking military official at the accident site and will operate out of the designated operational command center. The DoD IC does not have directive authority over non-DoD personnel or assets that are outside exclusive DoD jurisdiction.

f. For a shore-based NW incident, the DoD IC will be the COMSUBGRU or Navy region commander, based on availability, until an RTF is ready to assume responsibility as the DoD IC.

g. RTF commanders designated by United States Fleet Forces Command (USFLTFORCOM) for executing an NW incident within the continental United States are Commander, Navy Region Northwest (COMNAVREG NW) and Commander, Navy Region Southeast (COMNAVREG SE). COMSUBGRU 9 and COMSUBGRU 10 are designated as deputy RTF commanders.

h. The DON will support the Department of Energy (DOE), as directed by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, or when acting under immediate response authority as defined in references (f) and (g), in responding to incidents involving U.S. NW in DOE custody, per section 1535 of Title 31, United States Code.

i. Requests for DON support from other Federal departments and agencies must be submitted to Office of the Secretary of Defense Executive Secretary through the appropriate DoD channels using the DoD request for assistance process. Requested forces will be provided consistent with operational availability and Secretary of Defense (SecDef) approval. This does not prevent a commander from taking immediate response actions to save lives, prevent human suffering, and mitigate great property damage per reference (f).

j. All echelons within the DON involved in the NW incident response will cooperate with Federal, State, local, and tribal (SLT) government organizations, in conjunction with the appropriate geographic combatant commander (GCC), in developing contingency plans for responding to an NW incident at appropriate facilities within their purview.

k. Due to the proximity of NW and the nuclear propulsion plant on an SSBN, DON has established a common NW incident and nuclear reactor accident and radiological accident emergency response C2 structure.

(1) Enclosure (2) depicts the C2 for an event that threatens both the nuclear propulsion plant and NW. NW incident emergency response procedures are addressed in subordinate instructions and operational plans. The DoD IC will ensure NW and nuclear propulsion plant response actions are properly prioritized.

(2) Response procedures for nuclear reactor accident and radiological accident are addressed in reference (a) and subordinate instructions.

l. For a shore-based DON NW incident, the chain of command prior to the deployment of the RTF is IRF to DoD IC to NJOIC or GCC. Once the RTF formally relieves the DoD IC on scene, the RTF assumes DoD IC and subsumes the IRF staff elements. The COMSUBGRU or Navy region commander will relieve the IRF as DoD IC for a DON NW incident ashore and transition DoD IC to the RTF as outlined in subparagraphs 5a through 5d.

m. For an SSBN DON NW incident, the chain of command prior to the deployment of the RTF is IRF to DoD IC to respective fleet commander to the NJOIC or GCC. Transition of DoD IC to the RTF commander will occur after the nuclear propulsion plant is deemed to be no longer threatened and immediate response actions to place the NW and NW systems in a stable condition are complete as determined by the DoD IC in coordination with the fleet commander, DIRSSP, and CNO N00N. COMSUBGRU will relieve the IRF commander of DoD IC duties for an SSBN NW incident and transition DoD IC to the RTF as outlined in subparagraphs 5a through 5d.

n. The NWI Response Principles, Enclosure (3), assist the IRF, DoD IC, and RTF Commanders in assessing and evaluating the extent of the incident and formulating an Incident Action Plan. The NWI Response Principles also provide higher headquarters with enhanced situational awareness.

6. Responsibilities

a. Chief of Naval Operations (CNO). Consistent with references (c), (e), and (h), the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) staff will support the DON NW Incident Response Program within functional areas of responsibility (AOR).

(1) Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Warfighting Requirements and Capabilities (CNO N9). CNO N9 is the DON echelon 1 supported flag officer for DON NW and NW systems for safety, security, technical inspections, and NW incident response. In addition to duties and responsibilities outlined in reference (h), CNO N9 will:

(a) Coordinate with CNO N00N to ensure NW incident and nuclear reactor accident or radiological accident response programs are integrated, as necessary;

(b) Review and coordinate the national NW incident exercise calendar among participating Navy organizations and activities, and monitor RTF annual and national level full-scale exercises;

(c) Monitor Navy RTF certification status;

(d) Provide an O-6 or general service equivalent principal member to the NW Accident Incident Response Subcommittee to represent the DON; and

(e) Provide Navy Joint Nuclear Accident Incident Response Team members per CJCSI 3431.01D.

(2) Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Operations, Plans, and Strategy (CNO N3/N5). CNO N3/N5 is the DON echelon 1 supported flag officer responsible to plan, monitor, coordinate, and advise CNO on Navy NW and NW systems global employment, operational strategy, policy, and plans; international politico-military matters; and the operational status of Navy NW and NW systems forces. In addition to duties and responsibilities outlined in reference (h), CNO N3/N5 will:

(a) Coordinate Navy NW operational policy issues with Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD); combatant commanders; Joint Staff; DIRSSP; Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (COMUSFLTFORCOM); and Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT), as well as other Department of Defense (DoD) and Government agencies;

(b) Coordinate with, advise and participate in executing direction of, as directed by CNO, the SecDef, Joint Staff, or National Military Command Center on issues pertaining to C2 of the Navy operating forces during actual or exercise NW incident events; and

(c) If the severity of the situation warrants a whole of government response, direct an OPNAV staff extended Navy crisis action team, per OPNAV 1601.7 series, to facilitate and coordinate inter-Service and inter-agency response forces in support of senior DON, DoD, and national authorities; respond to requests from the Joint Nuclear Accident Incident Response Team.

(3) Chief of Information (CNO N09C)

(a) Serve as principal public affairs advisor to Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) and CNO in preparing for and responding to an NW incident.

(b) Ensure coordination in DON public affairs policy for an NW incident.

(c) Coordinate with CNO N00N for DON public affairs policy for and public affairs response during an event that threatens a nuclear propulsion plant and NW.

(4) Director, Naval Criminal Investigative Service

(a) Serve as the DON Senior Official for Law Enforcement Investigations and Counterintelligence.

(b) Coordinate with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and with other law enforcement agencies in the planning and execution of DON NW incidents in coordination with assigned DoD IC and RTF commanders.

(c) Responsible for, or cognizant of, any DON investigations of an NW incident.

(d) Participate in executing direction of SecDef, Joint Staff, or National Military Command Center during actual or exercise NW incident events as directed by CNO.

(e) Serve as principal advisor for law enforcement and counterintelligence to SECNAV and CNO in preparing for and responding to an NW incident.

(5) Judge Advocate General (CNO N09J)

(a) Serve as principal legal advisor to SECNAV and CNO in preparing for and responding to an NW incident.

(b) Coordinate legal advice with the general counsel concerning compliance with public law.

b. The Commandant of the Marine Corps. Per SECNAVINST S8126.1A (NOTAL), the Commandant of the Marine Corps will provide Marine Corps security force battalions to support initial response to, and appropriate support for, an NW incident occurring inside Federal boundaries or national defense areas (NDA). Marine Corps security force battalion forces will provide security, support, and response to an NW incident outside Federal boundaries as needed by the situation, or as directed by higher authority, but need not wait for permission to safeguard NW or NW systems.

c. Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED). BUMED is the echelon 2 supporting flag officer to the Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy for Policy (DUSN(P)) for DON NW Personnel Reliability Program (PRP) policy and to DIRSSP for providing technical guidance and assistance for DON radiation health matters by MOU. BUMED will:

(1) Provide technical guidance through official correspondence to DIRSSP and operational commanders on the medical aspects of radiation hazards associated with an NW incident.

(2) Develop procedures for the medical treatment of contaminated personnel and mass casualties and provide assistance and technical guidance for identifying and locating facilities for the treatment of contaminated personnel.

(3) Establish radiation protection standards and provide information on the biological effects of radiation.

(4) Act as liaison between the Department of the Army and Armed Forces Medical Examiner (Defense Health Agency) to provide IRF commanders technical guidance developed by these organizations on the decedent affairs aspects of an NW incident.

(5) Advise organizations responsible for the development of equipment for radiation protection and decontamination.

(6) Train medical personnel in the provisions of BUMEDINST 6470.10B and NAVMED P-5055 of February 2011 for the treatment of irradiated or radioactively contaminated personnel.

d. Commander, Naval Education and Training Command. Assist DIRSSP; Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC); USFLTFORCOM and Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) in the development of NW incident response training as requested.

e. Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command

(1) Maintain technical advisors and provide technical guidance and advice concerning radiological monitoring, contamination control, decontamination, and contaminated material disposal.

(2) Provide a Navy Radiation Health Officer or civilian Health Physicist to serve as Director of the Accident Site Health Group.

(3) Procure, maintain, and distribute required radiation detection and monitoring equipment.

(4) Provide an environmental specialist to support and, if directed, function as the director of the site remediation working group.

(5) Coordinate and develop remediation plans for NW incident response.

(6) Coordinate with DIRSSP and fleet commanders in the development of SSBN NW incident response plans.

f. CNIC. CNIC is the echelon 2 supporting flag officer to CNO (N4), CNO (N9), COMUSFLTFORCOM, COMPACFLT, DIRSSP, Commander, Naval Information Warfare Systems Command (COMNAVWARSSYSCOM), and COMNAVSEASYSYSCOM, as the advocate, and point of contact for Navy installations.

(1) Provide base operating and civil engineering support for an NW incident response.

(2) Ensure base force protection procedures are coordinated and integrated with NW incident response and NW security requirements.

(3) Establish NW incident and all-hazards response supporting infrastructure (regional operations center) in support of, and in coordination with, DIRSSP and operational commanders.

(4) Serve as budget submitting office for RTFs. Provide Director, Undersea Warfare Division (OPNAV N97) an annual report addressing current and projected (next Program Objective Memorandum (POM) cycle) requirements.

g. Commander, Naval Information Warfare Systems Command. Naval Information Warfare Systems Command (NAVWARSSYSCOM) is the echelon 2 supporting flag officer to Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Dominance (CNO N2N6) and CNO N9 and will provide technical advice and assistance to Navy and Marine Corps forces, ashore and afloat, on the employment of portable communications systems capable of providing secure voice, record copy, and satellite communication capabilities.

h. DIRSSP. In addition to duties and responsibilities outlined in references (e) and (h), DIRSSP will:

(1) Provide credible training and exercise scenarios for accident and incident drills involving NWs and mated Trident missiles;

(2) Ensure SWFs prepare NW incident response plans in support of SSBN and ashore NW incident in coordination with the applicable fleet commanders and RTF commander;

(3) Provide technical review of applicable NW incident response doctrine;

(4) Assist the SWFs and RTF commanders in developing response force training, when requested;

(5) Ensure that SWFs conduct NW incident exercises at least quarterly and that at least one exercise held annually will be an integrated IRF or RTF exercise;

(6) Ensure that SWFs are capable of handling the effects of a radiological accident or incident in the SWF operations area and preparations and relationships with local civil authorities are adequate to protect life, property, and the environment during the initial phase of an NW incident;

(7) Provide policy and technical guidance to IRF and RTF commanders and associated organizations (e.g., explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), firefighting, and medical) concerning preparatory NW incident response planning in support of NW handling and logistic movements;

(8) In coordination with USFLTFORCOM and COMPACFLT, provide follow-on specialized training, as necessary, to improve designated EOD unit knowledge on NW and NW systems ordnance training, SSBN hazard identification, and render safe procedures requiring technical input, evaluation, or material support, per OPNAVINST 8027.1H;

(9) Provide the listing of shore-based IRF commanders to the NJOIC, Navy operations center, and United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) with a copy furnished to CNO N9;

(10) Ensure SWFs support afloat commands within SWF operations areas and in support of the DoD IC and RTF during an NW incident, or all hazards event that has potential to affect NWs;

(11) Provide NW technical assessment, evaluation, and oversight to the DoD IC for all hazard events that have the potential to affect NW;

(12) In coordination with USFLTFORCOM, COMPACFLT, CNO N00N, and CNIC, support the development and maintenance of a common and unified communications structure that addresses specialized nuclear weapons response operations to enhance command and control of DON and national response to NW incidents; DIRSSP will consolidate the ashore and afloat portions; along with all stakeholders, ensure consistency; and issue to all Navy commands; and

(13) Serve as the program manager and technical authority for advising NW resource sponsors (CNO N9) of requirements to ensure NW incident readiness is maintained.

i. USFLTFORCOM. In addition to duties and responsibilities outlined in reference (h), USFLTFORCOM will:

(1) Serve as the supported flag officer to CNO N9 for developing fleet operational policies associated with Navy NW incident response in coordination with DIRSSP, CNO N00N, and the applicable Navy component commanders (NCC);

(2) Designate a flag officer(s) as the RTF commander within the USNORTHCOM AOR;

- (3) Provide CNO N9 and GCC with RTF updates as significant changes occur;
 - (4) Review RTF manning, training, and equipment requirements to ensure operational readiness of RTFs and provide to the applicable headquarters for resourcing through CNO N9;
 - (5) Ensure the RTF and appropriate supporting elements identified in the RTF training plan are exercised annually;
 - (6) Ensure COMNAVREG NW and COMNAVREG SE prepare NW incident response plans; and
 - (7) Validate RTF Navy Mission Essential Task List in coordination with USNORTHCOM.
- j. USFLTFORCOM and COMPACFLT. USFLTFORCOM and COMPACFLT are designated NW incident response fleet commanders for a DON NW incident involving an SSBN: USFLTFORCOM for Atlantic-based SSBNs, and COMPACFLT for Pacific-based SSBNs. In addition to duties and responsibilities outlined in reference (h), these commands will:
- (1) Execute C2 over responding Navy forces for an SSBN NW incident as outlined in paragraph 5, in addition to fleet commander's responsibilities per reference (d);
 - (2) Provide a list of ports with the potential to support SSBN visits and provide to the applicable DoD IC and RTF, and ensure that DoD IC and RTF commanders have established NW incident response plans for designated ports (please note: NW incident response plans must address the integration of the DoD IC and RTF; and for an NW incident onboard an SSBN at sea, the respective fleet commander will direct the SSBN to its homeport or an alternate port if the situation dictates); and
 - (3) Coordinate response processes, requirements, plans, training, and exercises for SSBN NW incidents, and ensure nuclear reactor accident and radiological accident response procedures are integrated with NW incident response procedures, as necessary.
- k. RTF Commanders
- (1) Establish NW incident response plans per this instruction, USFLTFORCOM, and the applicable GCC's direction. This guidance should include, but not be limited to, the provisions outlined in reference (d), and include the requirement for development and employment of a deployable C2 element per fleet commander's direction.
 - (2) Be prepared to deploy and execute RTF operations outside COMNAVREG NW and COMNAVREG SE to locations identified per subparagraph 6j(2). Assume responsibility as DoD IC, when appropriate, within a unified command structure along with the local Navy region

commander, other DoD elements, and designated officials from agencies with jurisdictional and statutory authority for aspects of the accident per reference (d).

(3) Serve as the principal DON interface between Federal SLT authorities for NW incident response planning. Coordinate actions with the IRF commanders and DoD Incident Commands.

(4) Serve as the supported commander with respective COMSUBGRU and SWF as supporting commanders for establishing and maintaining an RTF training and exercise program. Maintain a trained staff to perform the functions addressed herein and in reference (d). Ensure, at a minimum, training requirements of reference (d) are met. Training and exercise schedules will be coordinated with the respective SWF to ensure minimal impact to operational schedules.

(5) Upon assuming DoD IC, determine request for assistance and request for forces requirements and notify the NJOIC or operational chain of command, as appropriate.

(6) Exercise each RTF and supporting elements at least annually. At a minimum, RTF exercises are to consist of either a field training exercise (FTX) or command post exercise (CPX). RTF exercises should include applicable aspects of reference (d) and enclosure (2), with the involvement of NJOIC, DoD, and other Federal SLT organizations, at their discretion. Due to the complex nature and demanding planning processes, the RTF exercise should rotate annually between ashore and SSBN NW incidents and may be combined with other full-scale exercises or CPXs.

(7) Participate in the nuclear weapons accident incident exercise (NUWAIX) program. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs determines the schedule. NUWAIX can serve as the annual RTF exercise requirement.

(8) Provide a detailed report of annual RTF exercises conducted, to include scenario, elements exercised, participants, lessons learned, and corrective actions to CNO N9. COMNAVREG NW and COMNAVREG SE reports will be provided via USFLTFORCOM and CNIC. COMNAVREG NW reports for exercises conducted in the United States Indo-Pacific Command AOR will be provided via COMPACFLT. Inform DIRSSP on all reports.

l. DoD IC (COMSUBGRU or regional commander not serving as RTF commander)

(1) Perform duties as delineated per reference (d), this instruction, IRF, RTF, and operational commander's NW incident response plans.

(2) Participate in the annual IRF and RTF exercise, including all aspects of reference (d) and enclosure (2).

m. Shore-based IRF Commanders

(1) Establish NW incident response plans as part of emergency management planning to be used by activities and units within the SWF, associated Navy base, and auxiliary units (e.g., EOD or firefighting). Coordinate plans with the DoD IC, RTF commander, and DIRSSP.

(2) Outline procedures and discuss coordination with Federal SLT authorities, as required.

(3) Serve as the principal DON interface between Federal SLT authorities for NW incident initial response until relieved by DoD IC.

(4) Maintain a trained force to perform the functions addressed herein and in reference (d). Plans and training programs will be developed and coordinated with the respective DoD IC, RTF commander, and DIRSSP.

(5) Determine requirements for outside assistance and notify the NJOIC or GCC during a NW incident until relieved by DoD IC.

(6) Exercise the IRF and supporting elements at least quarterly. IRF exercises are to consist of an FTX, a CPX, or a tabletop exercise. At least annually, exercise with the RTF in a FTX, including all aspects of reference (d).

(7) Conduct an annual review of plans, procedures, and capabilities.

(8) Participate in the NUWAIX Program.

(9) Develop and maintain procedures providing the FBI expedited access into all pertinent areas of the SWF or the NDA during an NW incident response. Access must include all assigned equipment approved by the SWF or DIRSSP. In order to control access, the use of credentials alone is not sufficient to gain access into the NDA or limited areas. Coordinate with the RTF commander, base commander, and the local FBI representative on the procedures to ensure all security and response needs are appropriately balanced. Develop similar procedures allowing DOE access with their equipment into the NDA or limited area. Notify affected commands and offices of the procedures as well as DIRSSP and CNIC.

(10) Ensure NW incident response plans include support for SSBN NW incidents.

n. SSBN IRF Commanders

(1) Establish NW incident response plans based on COMSUBGRUs and fleet commander's guidance.

(2) Conduct NW incident exercises per fleet commander's guidance.

(3) Develop and maintain procedures providing the FBI and DOE expedited access into all pertinent areas of the SSBN during an NW incident response. Access must include all approved assigned equipment. In order to control access, the use of credentials alone is not sufficient to gain access.

o. Custodial-based EOD Mobile Units and Detachments

(1) Provide an annual update detailing resources capable of responding to or being employed in response to an NW incident and report deficiencies to the respective IRF and RTF commanders, copy to respective fleet commander, CNIC, and DIRSSP.

(2) Receive follow-on specialized training, as necessary, by DIRSSP to improve EOD knowledge on strategic weapons systems ordnance training, SSBN hazard identification, and render safe procedures requiring technical input, evaluation, or material support from DIRSSP.

(3) Support SWF NW incident response plans and have a sufficient response force available in order to respond in a timely manner, as determined by the EOD detachment commander.

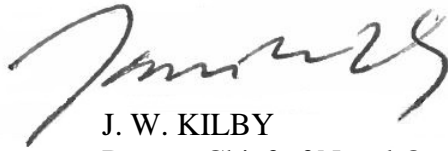
7. Records Management

a. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned per the records disposition schedules located on the Department of the Navy Assistant for Administration, Directives and Records Management Division portal page at <https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction or the records disposition schedules, please contact the local records manager or the OPNAV Records Management Program (DNS-16).

8. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, OPNAV N97 will review this instruction annually around the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, Department of Defense, Secretary of the Navy, and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction. This instruction will be in effect for 10 years, unless revised or cancelled in the interim, and will be reissued by the 10-year anniversary date if it is still required, unless it meets one of the exceptions in OPNAVINST 5215.17A, paragraph 9. Otherwise, if the instruction is no longer required, it will be processed for cancellation as soon as the need for cancellation is known following the guidance in OPNAV Manual 5215.1 of May 2016.

9. Information Management Control. The reporting requirements contained within this instruction are exempt from information management control by SECNAV M-5214.1 of December 2005, part IV, subparagraph 7k.



J. W. KILBY
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations,
Warfighting Requirements and Capabilities

Releasability and distribution:

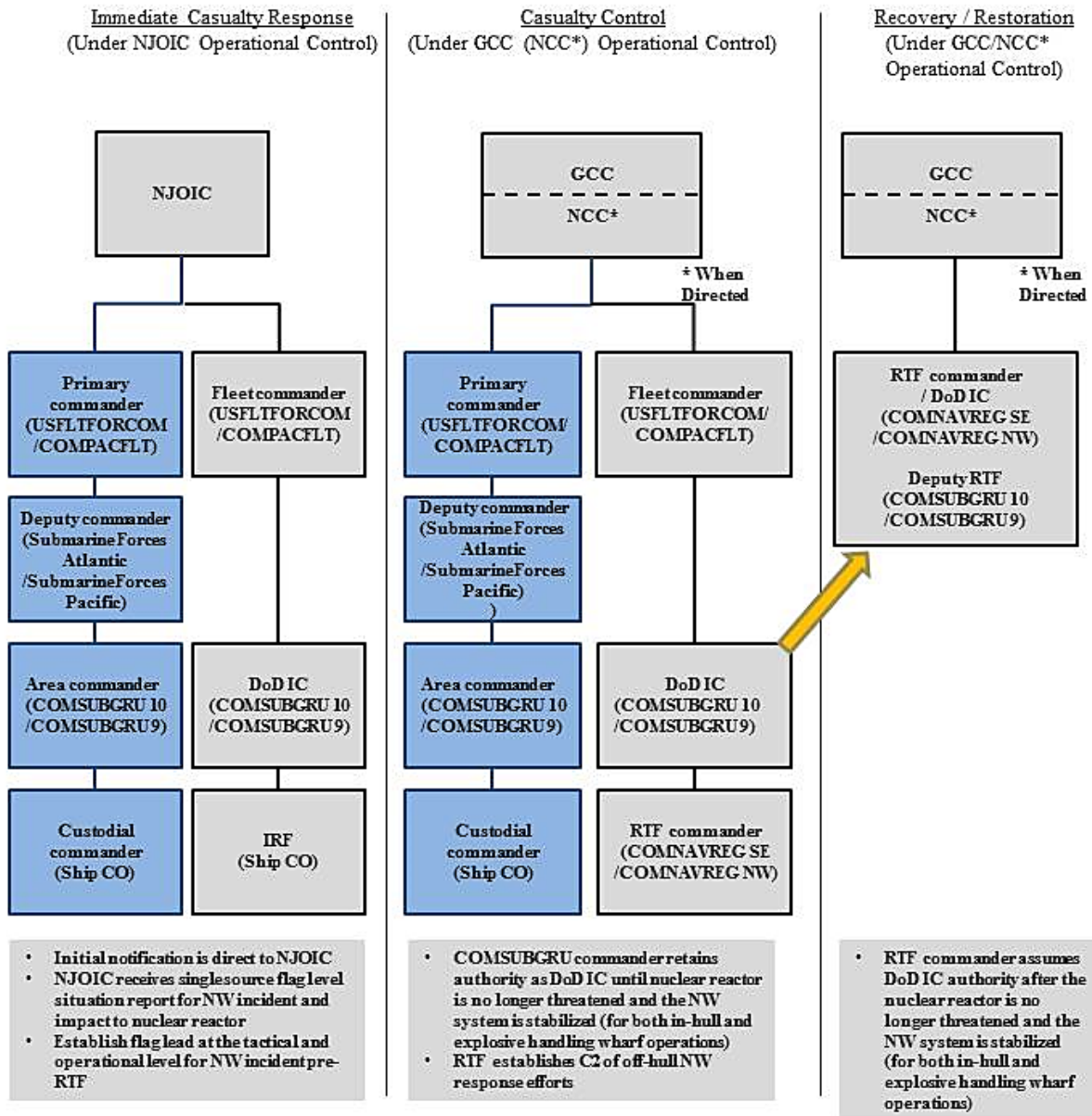
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ACRONYMS

1. AOR	Area of responsibility
2. C2	Command and control
3. CNIC	Commander, Navy Installations Command
4. CNO	Chief of Naval Operations
5. CO	Commanding Officer
6. COMNAVREG NW	Commander, Navy Region Northwest
7. CONAVREG SE	Commander, Navy Region Southeast
8. COMPACFLT	Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet
9. CPX	Command post exercise
10. COMSUBGRU	Commander, Submarine Group
11. DIRSSP	Director, Strategic Systems Programs
12. DoD	Department of Defense
13. DOE	Department of Energy
14. DON	Department of the Navy
15. EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
16. FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
17. FTX	Field training exercise
18. GCC	Geographic Combatant Commander
19. IC	Incident commander
20. IRF	Initial Response Force
21. NCC	Navy Component Commander
22. NDA	National Defense Area
23. NJOIC	National Joint Operations and Intelligence Center
24. NMCC	National Military Command Center
25. NW	Nuclear weapon(s)
26. NUWAIX	Nuclear weapons accident incident exercise
27. OPNAV	Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
28. RTF	Response Task Force
29. SecDef	Secretary of Defense
30. SECNAV	Secretary of the Navy
31. SLT	State, local, and tribal
32. SSBN	Ballistic missile submarine, nuclear-powered
33. SWF	Strategic Weapons Facility
34. USFLTFORCOM	United States Fleet Forces Command
35. USNORTHCOM	United States Northern Command

NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPON (NW) INCIDENT COMMAND AND CONTROL (C2) DIAGRAM

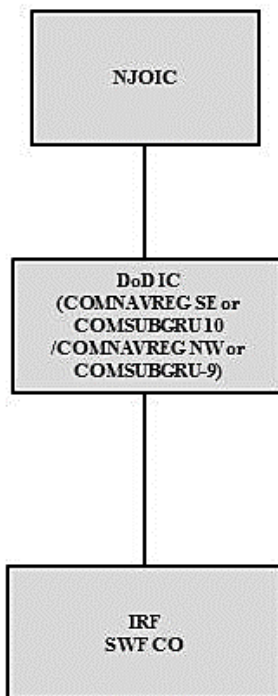
SSBN Events



— Operational Control NW Incident Response Chain of Command Nuclear Reactor Incident Response Chain of Command ➔ DoD IC Shift

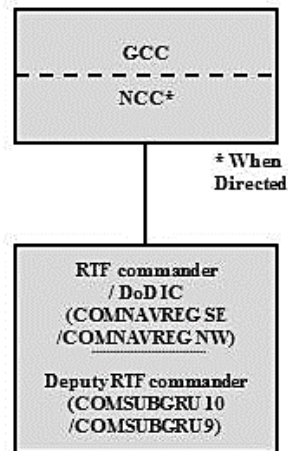
Ashore Facility Events

Immediate Casualty Response (Under NJOIC Operational Control)



- Initial notification is direct to NJOIC
- Establish flag lead at the tactical and operational level for NW incident pre-RTF standup DoDIC will be the COMSUBGRU or region commander

Casualty Control / Recovery / Restoration (Under GCC/NCC* Operational Control)



* When Directed



NUCLEAR WEAPONS INCIDENT RESPONSE PRINCIPLES

1. Security Established (including National Defense Area). Actions taken in this principle will ensure DoD forces provide and maintain adequate security for all nuclear weapons and classified components and material that may be involved in the incident per DoDI 5200.08 and DoDM 3150.08.

- a. Secure assets and components
- b. Implement Recapture or Recovery actions
- c. Secure remainder of Navy inventory (coordinate with DIRSSP)
- d. Secure airspace over the incident site (coordinate with Federal Aviation Administration)
- e. Monitor intelligence on hostile collection or exploitation efforts (coordinate with Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI))

2. Ensure The Scene is Safe (First Responders). Actions taken in this principle are intended to identify and assess current hazards and actions needed to help mitigate further issues. Examples of primary hazards include fire, abnormal environments, contamination, personnel hazards, etc.

- a. Report primary hazards and mitigation actions
- b. Tend to injuries (medical treatment takes precedence over radiological controls)
- c. Maintain crew and on-scene exposure As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA)
- d. Conduct initial damage assessment
- e. Determine safe routine
- f. Determine status of high explosives and nuclear material
- g. Conduct initial Render Safe Procedures (RSP)

3. Establish Contamination Controls. Actions taken in this principle are intended to identify and control the spread of contamination and identify the affected area for potential protective or precautionary actions.

- a. Secure physical boundaries
- b. Secure or redirect ventilation
- c. Control runoff to environment
- d. Establish Contamination Control Station
- e. Determine and establish contamination boundaries

4. Dispatch Response Personnel. Actions taken in this principle are intended to inform and request assistance for emergency responders to help control and mitigate hazards at the incident site.

- a. Establish Incident Command Post
- b. Dispatch Fire/Emergency Medical Services
- c. Dispatch Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams
- d. Dispatch radiological survey teams and initiate radiation detection procedures
- e. Ensure personnel nearest the scene shelter in place
- f. Ensure on-site personnel not responding to the accident are away from emergency response personnel

5. Obtain and Assess Radiological Data. Actions taken in this principle are intended to identify hazards associated with the nuclear weapons and utilize additional Federal monitoring capabilities.

- a. Determine if a release has occurred and identify affected areas
- b. Locate and track radiological plume centerline and width
- c. Find and measure maximum centerline dose rate
- d. Provide data to National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center
- e. Determine protective action recommendations

6. Establish and Maintain Communications. Actions taken in this principle are intended to inform Higher Headquarters, Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies of the incident and request assistance to help inform and protect the public.

- a. Transmit initial operational report-event and incident report (OPREP-3) message
- b. Transmit follow-on OPREP-3 messages
- c. Establish on-scene communications
- d. Establish reporting to Higher Headquarters
- e. Establish command relationships with DoD, Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies

7. Personnel and Logistic Support. Actions taken in this principle are intended to keep Higher Headquarters, Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies informed on status of the incident and request support to ensure resources are available or requested to assist in consequence management.

- a. Report status of Dead/Injured/Missing/Contaminated
- b. Track status of response teams
- c. Provide Relief/Replacement/Request for Forces
- d. Determine logistical support
- e. Determine critical resources availability
- f. Mobilize backup and support personnel and develop resource plan

8. Public Affairs. Actions taken in this principle are intended to have unified messaging, keep Higher Headquarters, Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies informed on status of the incident, and to keep the public informed of important information.

- a. Approved holding statement (goal: 15 minutes)
- b. Determine need to confirm or deny presence of nuclear weapons
- c. Develop follow-on press statements (goal: every 60 minutes)
- d. Ensure consistent messaging with Unified Command, interagency, and the White House
- e. Keep Unified Command informed of significant media interest
- f. Inform personnel of situation and provide disclosure guidance
- g. Provide protective actions recommendations to Civil Authorities

9. Weapons Assessment and Recovery. Actions in this principle are intended to bring the weapons system experts together to safe the potentially damaged weapon, components, and delivery system and package for transport. Responders may come from Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Accident Response Group, Joint Technical Operations Team, or the FBI.

- a. Continuation of RSP
- b. Assess weapon and weapon system
- c. Determine disposition (DoD to Department of Energy transfer)

10. Navy Nuclear Deterrence Mission. Actions in this principle are intended to assist in developing mitigations to ensure the DoD can continue its nuclear deterrence mission.

- a. Restore capabilities
- b. Determine mitigations
- c. Determine timeframe
- d. Determine legal ramifications